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# Republican Policy Committee

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## President Clinton on Budgets and CBO

*"I would present a five-year plan to balance the budget."*

Bill Clinton (June 4, 1992)

*"I think [balancing the budget] clearly can be done in less than 10 years."*

Bill Clinton (May 20, 1995)

*"It took decades to run up this deficit; it's going to take a decade to wipe it out."*

Bill Clinton (June 13, 1995)

*"I think we could reach it [balancing the budget] in seven years."*

Bill Clinton (October 19, 1995)

*"I think we could reach it [balancing the budget] in eight years."*

Bill Clinton (October 19, 1995)

*"I think we could reach it [balancing the budget] in nine years."*

Bill Clinton (October 19, 1995)

In President Clinton's 1993 State of the Union address, he explained to Congress why he used CBO numbers to score his 1994 budget proposal:

*"I did this so that we could argue about priorities with the same set of numbers. I did this so that no one could say I was estimating my way out of this difficulty. I did this because if we can agree together on the most prudent revenues we're likely to get if the recovery stays and we do the right things economically, then it will turn out better for the American people than we say. In the last 12 years, because there were differences over revenue estimates, you and I know that both parties were given greater elbow room for irresponsibility. Let's at least argue about the same set of numbers so the American people will think we're shooting straight with them."* [Address Before a Joint Session of Congress on Administration Goals, February 17, 1993, Weekly Compilation of Presidential Documents; emphasis added]

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